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CATO S. HIGHTOWER
CHIEF OF POLICE

June 19, 1964

Gus
file

Mr. Forrest V. Sorrels,
Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Secret Service
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Sorrels:

With reference to your inquiry regarding The Cellar Coffee House, 100½ East 10th Street, this city, this place of business is operated by Pat Kirkwood, a local white male who was born and reared in this city. He is a former race track driver and for years travelled over the country racing stock cars, etc. Since The Cellar is a coffee house and has a beatnick theme, Kirkwood has grown a beard to fit in with this theme. He is quite a showman.

For some reason every visitor to our city seems to visit The Cellar. It is pointed out by taxi drivers and bell boys in our better hotels as a "must" while the visitor is in our city. The Cellar has had many distinguished visitors. The waitresses, keeping with the beatnick theme, wear bikinis and leotards. This place has no liquor or beer license, but serves what they call 'rum and coca cola'. This is a concoction of Coca Cola and imitation rum flavoring. We have obtained samples many times and have yet to find any alcohol content. We answer the usual disturbance calls to this place, but probably do not have any more disturbance calls to The Cellar than we do to any similar place. The Cellar has been in operation for several years, both at the above location and at an address on Houston Street in a building which has since been demolished.

In summing up my idea of The Cellar I would say that it was a local color joint of the type that many cities have to entertain tourists and visitors.

If any more information is needed regarding this place, do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Cato S. Hightower

Cato S. Hightower
CHIEF OF POLICE

1644

CSH:dt

GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

711.6

O : SAIC Forrest V. Sorrels - Dallas

DATE: June 19, 1964

ROM : SA Robert A. Steuart - Dallas

UBJECT: Surveillance experience at "The Cellar", Fort Worth, Texas

On July 28, 1962, a Special Agent of the ~~Federal~~ Bureau of Investigation telephoned to you advising that Mr. Pat Kirkwood, operator of a "beatnik type" coffee house at southeast corner of 10th and Main Streets, Fort Worth, Texas, reported an unknown white male offered to sell him some "strange" money at 35¢ on the dollar.

On the same date, as directed by you, accompanied by SA George W. Chaney, drove to Fort Worth, Texas. At 700 9th Street, Fort Worth, we talked with Mr. Pat Kirkwood and arranged to take up surveillance in appropriate space at "The Cellar" at above address, this night, so that if the man reappeared to sell counterfeit currency, we would be on hand for appropriate further action.

SA Chaney and myself sat well back from the crowd, in "The Cellar" from about 9:00 P.M. until after 12 Midnight, without the suspect appearing.

Mr. Kirkwood explained that they sold coca colas with imitation rum flavoring for their customers. I saw no sign at any time of any unruly conduct or boisterous activity. As I recall, most of the customers sat around on the floor in front of the musicians and at time sang along with the music. The waitresses wore bikini bathing suits, but at no time did we observe any rude deportment. I think one young fellow who had been drinking got by their doorman, and did drop a glass which broke and spilled on the floor. That customer was promptly evicted and the broken glass and coca cola mopped up, as the waitresses were barefooted.

Mr. Kirkwood explained to us that many influential Fort Worth citizens visit their establishment, for the "experience" and to observe the local-color of a beatnik-type place in full swing. Mr. Kirkwood was wearing a beard and dressed after the beatnik fashion, which he explained was necessary in this type of business.

When no counterfeit action had occurred by midnight, we ended the surveillance and returned to Dallas. We were well impressed with Mr. Kirkwood's attitude in this matter and felt that if the alleged dealer returned with counterfeit money, that Mr. Kirkwood would promptly notify our Dallas office.

RAS:wd

ED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U. S. Secret Service

TO : Chief - Attn: Inspector Kelley

DATE: June 20, 1964.

FROM : SAIC Sorrels, Dallas

SUBJECT: Assassination of President Kennedy - The Cellar Coffee House

Reference is made to Inspector Kelley's phone call on June 19, 1964, requesting information from the Ft. Worth Police Department regarding the Cellar, Ft. Worth, Texas.

There is enclosed letter dated June 19, 1964 from Chief of Police Cato S. Hightower, Ft. Worth, Texas, in re The Cellar Coffee House, 100½ East 10th Street, Ft. Worth, Texas, which is self-explanatory.

There is also enclosed memorandum from SA Robert A. Stewart regarding the same subject.

ATTACHMENTS: 2.

AIRMAIL

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